

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A handheld device comprising:
 - a) a first audio signal source coupled to a first variable attenuator/amplifier;
 - b) a second audio signal source coupled to a second variable attenuator/amplifier;
 - c) a priority logic unit, for assigning priority levels as a function of ~~the~~ a source of said first audio signal source ~~the~~ a source of said second audio signal source and a nature of an audio output device for audibly outputting said first audio signal and said second audio signal, to coupled to said source of said first audio signal source and said source of said second audio signal source, and also coupled to said first variable attenuator/amplifier and said second variable attenuator/amplifier;
 - d) a mixer coupled to said first variable attenuator/amplifier and to said second variable attenuator/amplifier; and,
 - e) ~~the said audio output device~~ connected to said mixer.
2. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein said first audio signal source ~~is generated by~~ a signal event source and said second audio signal source ~~is generated by~~ a continuous audio source.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said handheld device comprises more than two ~~audio~~ sources of audio signals.

4. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein said first audio signal source is generated by a first continuous audio source and said second audio signal source is generated by a first continuous audio source.

5. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein said first audio signal source is generated by a first signal event ~~audio~~ source and said second audio signal source is generated by a second signal event ~~audio~~ source.

6. (Original) The hand held device of claim 1 wherein said priority logic unit comprises an analog to digital conversion capability.

7. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 5 wherein said priority logic unit further comprises a memory buffer capable of storing a portion of a signal from one of said source of said first audio signal source and said source of said second audio signal source.

8. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein an audible output generated by said output device consists of a single stereophonic channel.

9. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein said source of said first audio ~~signal~~ source is a wireless broadcast.

10. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1 wherein said source of said first audio ~~signal~~ source is a storage medium.

11. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 10 wherein said source of said first audio ~~signal~~ source is a digital storage medium.

12. (Original) The handheld device of claim 11 wherein said digital storage medium is a flash memory.

13. (Original) The handheld device of claim 10 wherein said storage medium is a removable storage medium.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for prioritizing audio sources and balancing a combined audio output in a handheld device comprising the steps of:

a) establishing a priority for each possible pairing of a plurality of audio signals as a function of a source of each of ~~the~~ said plurality of audio signals ~~and a plurality of outputs;~~

b) adjusting a first and second one of ~~the~~ said plurality of audio signals according to a nature of an output device utilized for rendering a resultant audible output signal and a first

priority corresponding to said the first and second one of the plurality of audio signals ~~and a~~
~~second priority corresponding to a second one of the plurality of audio signals; and,~~

c) combining the adjusted first and second one of the plurality of audio signals ~~with the~~
~~second one of the plurality of audio signals; and~~

d) rendering available a said resultant audible output signal from said step c).

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of adjusting ~~the said~~
first and second one of the plurality of audio signals comprises setting a level of the first one of
the plurality of audio signals with respect to a level of the second one of the plurality of audio
signals in accordance with a predetermined ratio.

16-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A product having a computer readable medium containing
executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the system to
perform the steps prioritizing audio sources and balancing a combined audio output in a
handheld device comprising:

a) ~~establishing a priority for each of a plurality of audio signals as a function of a source~~
~~of each of the plurality of audio signals and a plurality of outputs~~ sensing the presence and
amplitude of each audio signal generated by a plurality of audio sources;

b) adjusting each audio signal as a function of a nature of an output device and a priority rule applicable to each pairing of the audio signals; ~~a first one of a plurality of audio signals according to a first priority corresponding to the first one of the plurality of audio signals and a second priority corresponding to a second one of the plurality of audio signals; and,~~

c) combining ~~the~~ each adjusted audio signal ~~first one of the plurality of audio signals with the second one of the plurality of audio signals; and~~

d) rendering ~~a~~ an audible resultant signal from said step c) on said output device ~~one of the plurality of outputs.~~

25-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 24, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions for adjusting ~~the~~ a first one of a plurality of the audio signals by amplifying ~~the~~ said first one of the ~~plurality of~~ audio signals.

29. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 24, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions for adjusting ~~the~~ a first one of a plurality of the audio signals by attenuating ~~the~~ said first one of the ~~plurality of~~ audio signals.

30. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 24, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions for adjusting ~~the~~ a first one of ~~a plurality of the~~ audio signals by delaying in time ~~the said~~ first one of the ~~plurality of~~ audio signals.

31. (Currently Amended) The handheld device of claim 1, wherein ~~the audio~~ said output device consists of one or more of a speaker, a headphone jack and a line out.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting ~~the said~~ first and second one of ~~the said~~ plurality of audio signals ~~according to the first priority corresponding to the first one of the plurality of audio signals and a second priority corresponding to a second one of the plurality of audio signals~~ comprises increasing or decreasing a volume level of ~~the said~~ first one of ~~the said~~ plurality of audio signals.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting ~~the said~~ first and second one of ~~the said~~ plurality of audio signals ~~according to the first priority corresponding to the first one of the plurality of audio signals and a second priority corresponding to a second one of the plurality of audio signals~~ comprises delaying in time ~~the said~~ first one of ~~the said~~ plurality of audio signals.